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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

HENRY A. WAXMAN
24TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 1975

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WAXMAN DEMANDS ARAB BOYCOTT DATA

In a stormy meeting of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Subcommittee, Los Angeles Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles) threatened to vote to hold Secretary of Commerce Rogers C.B. Morton in contempt of Congress if Morton failed to comply with a Subcommittee subpoena seeking information on the Arab economic boycott.

On July 28th, the Subcommittee, of which Waxman is a member, issued a subpoena to the Commerce Department for documents filed under a law which requires every company which has been asked by a foreign nation to participate in a boycott to notify the Office of Export Administration. Commerce Secretary Morton has adamantly refused to supply the Congressional Committee with the requested documents.

According to Waxman, the Subcommittee already has substantial evidence indicating that firms the Arabs have asked to boycott Israel have not been reporting the solicitations to the government. Waxman said there is also evidence that the Commerce Department has been extremely lax in enforcing the reporting requirement.

During Secretary Morton's appearance before the Subcommittee, Waxman said,

"If the effect of Secretary Morton's refusal to comply with our subpoena is to say we are going to wink at a boycott, then we will have given a clear signal to escalate discrimination . . . dictated by the whims of foreign governments. The Secretary's attitude makes clear to me that we may be helping to implement the boycott policies of the Arab governments, not just acquiescing to them."